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DPD-8299-59

4 December 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: P-4V7 Night Photographic Flash Capability

REFERENCE: A. Memorandum for DE/P, from C/SRS/DPD, dtd 18 Nov 59, same subject (DPD-5690-59)
B. Memorandum for AC/DPD, from DE/P, dtd 18 Nov 59, same subject (DE/P-4-9286)

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation submitted for the approval of the Deputy Director (Plans). Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 4.

2. With reference to Jim Reber's memorandum and your request to look into a reserve capability for night photo flash, a paper was prepared by Colonel Beerli (attached). This recommends that we consider the present night photo system unacceptable and that it should be removed from the Agency inventory. I concur in this recommendation.

3. Colonels [] and Beerli and I have had a good deal of practical experience in the development of an acceptable night photo flash capability in SAC. For approximately four years, an all-out effort was made to develop a reliable low-level night photo capability. Some tests were successful; however, extensive use proved the system unreliable. It has since been dropped from SAC's consideration, and a high altitude night photo flash capability is the only current SAC operation to my knowledge. Although one can conceive of tactical situations in which current pinpoint information is required, the hazards inherent in any operation against a well-defended target seem to me so great that an operational decision to launch such a sortie would be based on an extremely high priority for a key target with some chance that, even should the mission survive, results would be marginal.

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4. It is, therefore, recommended that the night photo system of the PIV7 be considered unacceptable for satisfying Agency collection requirements and that it be removed from the Agency inventory.

SIGNED

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

Attachment

DPD-8098-59, 1 cy

Recommendation in para. 4 APPROVED:

(s) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director (Plans)

DEC 1959

Date

DPD-DD/P:WBJr

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DDJP 4-9286 (1) } attached
DPD-5690-59 }
(all copies)

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